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**Sutton et al.**

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(54) **METHOD OF INTERCONNECTING OF A  
HAND-HELD AUXILIARY UNIT, A  
PORTABLE COMPUTER AND A  
PERIPHERAL DEVICE**

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364/708.1; 312/223.1**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A pen-based portable computer, or pen-tablet computer, for use with a vehicular docking station that allows for the exchange or replacement of components thereof without the need for returning the computer to the manufacturer. The computer utilizes a main or primary housing for the major components of the computer, and a separate, independent, auxiliary expansion unit having its own housing for mounting a replaceable radio module that is connected to the main computer via a multi-pin connector, whereby the replacement or exchange of the radio module for a different one is easily and readily achieved, and where auxiliary or expansion devices may be connected to the main computer thereby, and where the auxiliary device itself serves as a handle for holding the main computer. Also provided is a vehicular docking station for the combined main computer and auxiliary unit, which vehicular docking station is provided with a multi-pin connector for receiving thereby a multi-pin connector of the auxiliary unit when the computer is connected to the auxiliary unit.

**3 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**

